

Contextualising GCSE Changes

Within 14-19 Reform

GCSEs are changing...

Key Strategic Documents

- Every Child Matters (2004)
- 14-19 Education and Skills White Paper (March 05)
- Skills White Paper (March 05)
- The FE White Paper (May 06)
- Leitch Review of Skills (December 06) and World Class Skills (govt response) (July 07)
- 2020 Vision – Gilbert Report (December 06)
- Raising Expectations (March 2007)
- New Secondary Curriculum (August 07)
- Confidence in Standards – consultation (January 2008)
- World Class Apprenticeships (January 2008)
- Promoting Achievement: Valuing Success - 14-19 Qualifications Strategy (April 2008)

Key Aims of Reform

Enable more young people to remain in learning for longer by:

- Tackling low participation
- Ensuring a good grounding for all in English, maths and employment skills
- Equipping young people with the knowledge and skills needed for progression via stronger vocational routes
- Providing stretch for all
- Re-engaging the disaffected

Key Areas of Reform

- Skills agenda
- Personalisation
- Stretch and Challenge
- Assessment
- Breadth and Coherence
- The machinery of government

Reform in Practice 1

- New secondary curriculum
 - Underpinned by 'Every Child Matters'
 - Incorporates unifying themes
 - Attitudes and attributes/skills/knowledge and understanding
- Focus on Personalised Learning
- New regulator
- New curriculum development agency
- New funding bodies

Reform in Practice 2

- Emphasis on Functional Skills and Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills
- New qualifications
 - project/Extended Project
 - Diploma
 - changes to A Level and GCSE
- Proposed pathways
 - General (A Level and GCSE)
 - Diplomas
 - Apprenticeships
 - Foundation Learning Tier

Main changes to GCSE

- updated and relevant content
- a focus on developing personal, learning and thinking skills
- flexible assessment
- removal of coursework and introduction of controlled assessment
- the inclusion of Functional Skills in GCSEs in English, maths and ICT

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